

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 SCEM-02 SCI-06 COME-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /167 W
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R 041522Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8824

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CG, PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: CAETANO DISCUSSES RECENT ZAIRE DECISION TO
PROHIBIT PORTUGUESE FROM CERTAIN BORDER AREAS

REF: LISBON 4435

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER CAETANO IN UNANNOUNCED NATION-
WIDE "FIRESIDE CHAT" DECEMBER 3 ADDRESSED TWO TOPICS OF
CURRENT CONCERN: FUEL SHORTAGE (REFTEL) AND RECENT
DECISION BY THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT TO EXPEL PORTUGUESE
FROM THAT PORTION OF ITS TERRITORY WHICH BORDERS ON
CABINDA AND ANGOLA. REGARDING ZAIRE, CAETANO VEHEMENTLY
PROTESTED MOBUTU'S DECLARED INTENTION PROHIBIT PORTUGUESE
FROM LIVING IN BORDER AREAS AND WARNED HIM GOP WOULD
NOT ACCEPT HUMILIATION. END SUMMARY

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1. CAETANO ADDRESSED NATION FOR TWENTY MINUTES

EVENING OF DECEMBER 3. ON SUBJECT OF ZAIRE, TO WHICH HE DEVOTED HALF OF HIS ADDRESS, CAETANO EXPRESSED HIS "REVULSION" AND "INDIGNATION" AT ZAIRE'S INTENTION PROHIBIT PORTUGUESE FROM LIVING IN BORDER AREAS AND CONFISCATE THEIR PROPERTY. THE PRIME MINISTER CONTRASTED PORTUGUESE HISTORIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO ZAIRIAN WELL-BEING, AND HER DESIRES FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE, WITH MOBUTU'S INTENTION TO COMMIT "VIOLENCE" AND FOSTER HATRED AGAINST PORTUGUESE. THESE TACTICS, HE SAID, MERIT THE GOP'S "MOST VEHEMENT PROTESTS."

2. PORTUGAL, HE WARNED, WILL CONTINUE TO ADHERE TO THE PEACEFUL NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, BUT "NO ONE SHOULD EXPECT HER TO ACCEPT WHAT IN EFFECT AMOUNTS TO HUMILIATION."

3. COMMENT: A PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF CAETANO'S ADDRESS WAS TO REGISTER PORTUGAL'S LEGITIMATE CONCERN AT ZAIRE'S INTENTION TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST THE CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF PORTUGUESE RESIDENT THERE. CAETANO HAS FIRMLY REMINDED MOBUTU THAT ZAIRE CANNOT EXPECT THE GOP TO COOPERATE WITH IT (I.E., ALLOW CONTINUED ZAIRIAN USE OF THE BENGUELA RAILWAY) IF IT CARRIES OUT ITS INTENDED MOVES AGAINST PORTUGUESE RESIDENTS IN ZAIRE. IN CONTEXT OF RECENTLY STEPPED UP RECRUITMENT FOR FLNA OF ANGOLANS RESIDENT IN ZAIRE, GOP PROBABLY FEARS REMOVAL OF PORTUGUESE FROM BORDER AREAS PRESAGES SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN ZAIRE-BASED INSURGENT ACTIVITY IN ANGOLA.
POST

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